

Program Approval and Possible ‘Inactive’ Status

Professional Services Division

August 2007

Overview of this Report

Programs are approved at institutions or program sponsors to prepare prospective educators. Prior to approval by the COA, a program must complete the peer review process. Once a program is approved, the program is listed on the Commission’s *Approved Programs* web page (<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/educator-prep/approved-programs.html>). Currently there are programs listed on the Commission’s web page as approved programs, but the programs are not in operation.

Staff Recommendation

This is an information item. If the COA directs staff, an action item would be prepared for the October 2007 COA meeting.

Background

Currently if an educator preparation program is approved it is listed on the Commission’s web page as an approved program. In researching the approved Fifth Year of Study programs, it became clear that although 35 programs had been approved as of February 2007, only 27 of the programs were in operation at any level in January 2007.

In the revised accreditation system, biennial reports are due every other year and if a program is not in operation—it will be difficult to submit a biennial report reporting on candidates and measures of candidate competence. Therefore staff is suggesting a second category of program approval—approved but inactive. An institution/program sponsor would be able to indicate that one or more of its approved programs is ‘inactive.’ If there have been no new standards adopted between the time the program became inactive and when the institution/program sponsor re-activates the program, a new program document would not need to be submitted and the program would not need to complete the initial program approval process again. Clearly if new standards are adopted, or modifications are made to the standards, the institution/program sponsor would need to address the new standard(s) prior to re-activating the program.

Questions to discuss:

1. How would a program enter ‘inactive’ status?
2. If a program is in ‘inactive’ status, what does the institution/program sponsor need to do to re-activate the program?
3. When can an institution/program sponsor re-activate a program?
4. If during the period a program is in ‘inactive’ status, the institution/program sponsor participates in i) Biennial Report, ii) Program Assessment, or iii) a site visit, what does the program or the institution/program sponsor need to do when the program is re-activated?
5. What other issues might apply to institutions/program sponsors with ‘inactive’ programs?

If the COA is supportive of adding an ‘inactive’ program status option, staff will prepare an action item for the October 2007 COA meeting. If the COA is not supportive of an ‘inactive’ program status, no item will be brought to the October meeting.

